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LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, an urgent letter dated 24 March 1993 from the President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Franjo Tudjman, addressed to you, in which he requests an emergency meeting of the Security Council, owing to the severe deterioration of the situation in Croatia and the continuation of the aggression against its territory, and in order to take the necessary measures to resolve the situation and prevent further attacks on a State Member of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 24 March 1993 from the President of the Republic of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I must regretfully inform you that, during the last few weeks, Serbian rebel forces in Croatia and units of Serbian forces in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina have repeatedly attacked, without any provocation from the Croatian side, several cities and villages in Croatia, thus inflicting numerous civilian casualties and severe material damage. These attacks are aimed at Šibenik, Zadar, Vodice, Biograd, Vinkovci, Županja, Djakovo, etc. The aggressor shelled the area of Dubrovnik, including the city itself. We are particularly concerned that, in spite of the local peace agreement that was reached, shelling of the historical city of Dubrovnik has resumed in order to draw neighbouring Montenegro once again into the conflict and to spread hostilities cutside of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in the Republic of Croatia.

These attacks were confirmed to the Minister of Defence, Gojko Šušak, by the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren. At the same time, Minister Šušak has assured me that Croatian forces have not responded to the attacks on Dubrovnik by shelling Trebinje, or to attacks on Zadar and Šibenik by shelling Knin and Benkovac, as was reported by Serbian media. On receiving those reports from UNPROFOR, we immediately requested that United Nations military observers investigate them on the spot. The investigation by United Nations officials confirmed that Croatian forces have not shelled any of these towns.

It is unnecessary to emphasize that these aggressive activities are further endangering the process of implementation of the Vance plan at a very sensitive moment when the decision of the Security Council on the extension of the UNPROFOR mandate in Croatia is due. It is absolutely essential that these attacks be stopped immediately, for they will not only undermine the efforts of the United Nations and the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, but could lead to an expansion of the armed conflict to neighbouring regions and destroy completely all the confidence-building measures undertaken to this day.

An illustration of the involvement of the Government at Belgrade in encouraging and actively supporting the rebellion of Serbian forces in the UNPAs and supplying them with manpower and arms can be provided by recent statements of the former "Minister of Defence" of the "Republic of Serbian Krajina", Stojan Španović. He confirmed that Slobodan Milošević has ordered the ethnic cleansing of all non-Serbians in the "Republic of Serbian Krajina", which is being executed by imported paramilitary units from Serbia. There is an ongoing mobilization in the so-called Krajina and an intensified campaign to enlist "volunteers" in Serbia.

Another example of the involvement of Belgrade authorities in the aggressive war against the Republic of Croatia is the capture of 13 soldiers on Croatian territory, near the town of Karlovac, who were recruited by the Yugoslav army in Serbia. All of them carried identity cards issued in Serbia and declared that they had been mobilized and given weapons to fight on the

territory of the Republic of Croatia against Croatian forces. The capture was witnessed by UNPROFOR forces in the Karlovac region.

All this clearly implicates the Belgrade authorities in activities directed against implementation of the Vance plan and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council, as well as against efforts of Co-Chairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen to bring about a peaceful solution to the present crisis.

Acting in accordance with Article 35, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations and in light of the continuing aggression directed against the territory of the Republic of Croatia, including the barbaric shelling of Croatian cities, I request an emergency meeting of the Security Council.

(Signed) Franjo TUDJMAN
President of the Republic
of Croatia